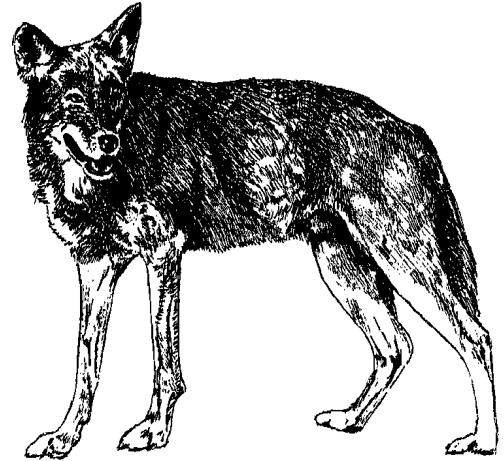

MARITIME FOREST

Overview

The maritime forests provide a protective buffer between the mainland and the sea. The live oak, palmetto, cedar, bay, and wax myrtle are all tolerant of the rough salt, sun, spray, and wind conditions.

Some maritime forests are mainland, such as those on the rim of the Francis Marion National Forest, but most exist on barrier islands, such as Bull Island on Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. There you will find an abundance of animals thriving year-round; using the forest as a protected resting place and as a source of precious food.



Red wolf (*Canis rufus*)

Species Checklist

Animals

black fox squirrel
great-horned owl
osprey
painted bunting
raccoon
red wolf

Plants

banana waterlily
cabbage palmetto
eastern red cedar
live oak
resurrection fern
Spanish moss
wax myrtle

Vocabulary

barrier island migratory
buffer tolerant
endangered
inundation
live-oaking
maritime

Important Messages

✦ The maritime forest is home to a multitude of birds. Both migratory and year-round birds use these areas for food, shelter, and rest.

✦ The maritime forest acts as a protective barrier between the mainland and the ocean. The plant life within this habitat is specially adapted to withstand salt inundation, high tides and high winds.

✦ Bull Island is the largest maritime forest island in Cape Romain Refuge at 5,000 acres. The red wolf recovery program was initiated on Bull's where these endangered animals are slowly recovering.

✦ Live oak and cabbage palmetto are the most abundant trees within the maritime forest community. In Colonial days, live oak wood was used for shipbuilding. The process of selecting the best trees is called "live-oaking."

Maritime Forest Habitat in the Forest/Refuge (in black)

